

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 8-21 are currently presented. Claims 2, 8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-18, and 20-21 are currently amended. Claims 4-7 are canceled. The Specification and the Abstract are currently amended to correct translation errors. The changes and additions to the Claims and Specification do not add new matter and are supported by the originally filed specification.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Endo et al. (US Patent No. 6,229,444, hereafter “Endo”); Claims 4-7 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1, 11, and 14 of Yahata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,930,646, hereafter “Yahata”); and Claims 1-3 and 8-21 were allowed.

The Specification and Abstract have been amended to replace the occurrence of the term “initial resistance” with the term “resistivity.” This feature is supported in the originally filed specification by the use of the unit “ Ω m” or “ Ω cm” corresponding to every occurrence of the term “initial resistance.” The units “ Ω m” and “ Ω cm” are commonly understood to be units of resistivity to persons of ordinary skill in the art. The first use of the unit “ Ω m” can be found on page 5, line 1 of the originally filed specification. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, Claims 4-7 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections discussed above are moot and that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Remus F. Fetea, Ph.D.
Registration No. 59,140